



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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October 8, 2003

Susan Black
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007

Re: 5-Mile Zone Study Area – Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment,
Yuma County

Dear Ms. Black:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed above-referenced Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (RMP/EA). The following comments are provided for your consideration.

The Department notes that the Preferred Alternative emphasizes natural resource conservation with limited recreation, community and commercial development. Given the recent and projected population growth for the area with concomitant loss of desert habitats, the conservation of desert habitats for wildlife and open space is important for both wildlife and outdoor recreational opportunities. The 5-mile zone presents an opportunity to conserve and manage undeveloped desert habitats. For this reason, the Department supports the choice of the preferred alternative.

Specific Comments

The RMP/EA refers to the 1997 Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy (Strategy). The Strategy was evaluated and revised in 2003. The revised Strategy should be reviewed for changes relevant to the RMP/EA and the references to the 1997 document updated to the 2003 document.

The Preferred Alternative proposed to limit development to “western portion” of the planning area. This area should be clearly identified and located on appropriate maps.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed project. The Department looks forward to continuing to work with the Bureau in the development of this plan. Please provide me a copy of the Final RMP/EA when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact me at 928-342-0091.

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